

THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Jamaican Canadian Association

- Members need to be more involved
- Lack an effective communication system
- In Focus is no longer published and the website is not updated regularly
- Members are holding the Board's feet to fire to allow them to make good decisions
- An appropriate organizational structure that focuses on community and not the social services organization
- In Focus publication needs to continue
- Use of web-site, updated weekly
- Every JCA activity planned to ensure mistakes are not made i.e. Mother's Day
- Every T crossed, every I dotted



JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

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Charitable Registration Number # 890534068RROOJ

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm with approximately 100 members.

Anthems for Canada and Jamaica were played

1. Welcome & Introductions

Audrey Campbell, President welcomed board members, members, visitors and guests.
Prayer led by Mr. Lewis

New Members

Marjorie Bowen

Visitors

Carlton Miller and children
Oleg Segin, Agency Review Officer at City of Toronto
Rosario Pascua, Allocations Manager, United Way of Greater Toronto

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Dr. Conville; seconded by D. Parker. Carried

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Corrections, omissions etc
Page 2 – add word *be* to President line
Page 3 – spelling error of acclamation throughout document

Motion to approve minutes moved by E. Graham; seconded by C. Jens. Carried.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Page 2 – was new auditor appointed? Yes, Benny Osher

5. Correspondence

Bowen Academy of Learning
Merl Grove fundraiser

Bereavement and get well cards read

6. Plaudits & Commentary – Roy Williams

Mr. Williams addressed the membership with the following comments:

- Stated he is first president of JCA and was instrumental in creating the original Constitution
- Based on credentials he has a right to speak to membership at any time
- Mr. Williams met with board one year ago
- Plaudits to President for gracious manner, ability to deal well with people
- Almost 100% of members feel better about organization compared to one year ago; also pleasantly surprised about the excellent & successful Walkathon; very impressed by organization and enthusiasm of committee

- Was also impressed at cohesiveness, energy and vigour of the committee and people involved but composition of committee was 20 women and 5 men
- He saluted women of JCA

Mr. Williams' Recommendations

- Members need to be more assertive in raising concerns and addressing issues
- Lack an effective communication strategy – little communication done between meetings, In Focus is no longer published; an information vacuum exists, many blank pages on website
- Members are holding the Board's feet to fire to allow them to make good decisions
- An appropriate organizational structure that focuses on community and not the social services organization
- In Focus publication needs to continue
- Use of web-site, updated weekly, minutes posted, use of regular communication
- Every JCA activity planned should be documented for future reference so that same mistakes are not made i.e. Mother's Day brunch
- Every T crossed, every I dotted

The President thanked Mr. Williams for his feedback & recommendations.

7. CEO Report

CEO moved a motion to accept his report; moved by F. Conville, seconded by H. Stewart.

Discussion

H. Stewart expressed his pleasure with stability in staffing and the CEO's report but stressed that ethno-cultural and social services delivery are two different things. He noted the erosion of ethno-cultural aspect and the expansion of social services programs.

- The President responded that United Way Toronto pays a large portion of salary for social services delivery; we as an organization need to discuss how to fund the CEO's salary.
- In response to a question about the absence of a summer camp, the CEO noted that in 2009 there were issues and the program was not well managed so we are going back to drawing board to fix issues but it will be put back in 2011. A student has been hired for summer to assist in other areas.
- In response to a question about whether any staff was present at the AGM, the CEO indicated that five staff are present.
- In response to a question about ongoing issues with United Way, Ms. K. Jean-Gopie, former Board member noted that JCA can only continue to be member if it complies with recommendations and that UW staff are willing to help with the challenges.

President called for acceptance of CEO's report – carried

8. President's Report

Motion to accept the report of the President; moved by E. Collins; seconded by R. Williams.

Discussion

- H. Stewart congratulated the Board for its leadership and raising \$25,000 last year from the raffle.
- A question about the status of the Volunteer Awards Committee was raised; the President indicated that the Executive Vice President is responsible for this committee and it will become active.
- V. Conville also thanked the Board for great leadership and reminded membership that two past president's portraits are not yet posted.
- Executive Vice President to follow-up.
- E. Collins congratulated the Board and CEO for taking a difficult situation and making it better. She suggested several areas still need improvement, namely communication to membership as she did not receive her Notice of AGM and the In Focus which needs to be distributed quarterly

President called for acceptance of her report – one abstention; carried.

Treasurer's Report

Motion to accept the report of the Treasurer; moved by E. Smith-Bowes; seconded by R. Gibbs.

Discussion

- It was noted that the building expense shows a break even for first time
- Question rose regarding the mortgage and whether we on track to eliminate the outstanding balance by the JCA' 50th anniversary? The Treasurer responded in the affirmative and noted that the \$25,000 raised from the raffle is in a special account which has a balance of \$41,000.
- A question rose about what is being done about the cumulative debt? The President indicated that the Fundraising committee is working with a consultant.
- F. Conville noted the deterioration of building especially washrooms and kitchen
- R. Williams suggested that the audited statement be distributed prior to the meeting; the Treasurer indicated the timelines are extremely tight and this would be unlikely.

President called for the acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Carried

President thanked outgoing Treasurer Carol Fox for her commitment.

9. Auditor's Report

Mr. Benny Osher was introduced; he indicated that the audit process went well and smoothly.

Discussion

Clarification was requested about Paragraph 3 of the Auditor's statement

Mr. Osher indicated that this is a typical statement for audit but he can work with the new Treasurer & CEO to separate the issue.

CEO called for motion to appoint Benny Osher as Auditor for 2010 - 2011 fiscal year. Moved by K. Jean-Gopie; seconded by L. Campbell. Carried.

Refreshment Break

President introduced surprise guest – Mr. Seth George Ramocan, Jamaica Consul General
Mr. Ramocan spoke briefly about recent events taking place in Jamaica and the government's role in addressing the issues.

10. Constitutional Review

The President provided context for this review by indicating a committee was established by Board and approved by the Membership at last quarterly meeting. The Committee was provided with a Terms of Reference and their main mandate was to review the Constitution and update sections no longer relevant.

Committee members: E. Collins, M. Bailey, D. Hamilton, H. Stewart (co-chair) and S. Thompson (co-chair).

Co-chair, H. Stewart indicated that 90% of the changes made were cosmetic; only two significant changes will affect day to day operations.

Co-chairs moved motion for acceptance changes to the Constitution made by the Constitutional Committee; seconded by R. Williams; none opposed. Motion carried.

Co-chair, S. Thompson indicated the revised Constitution will be posted on the JCA web-site.

11. Election of Officers

Nominating committee chair, M. Bailey, indicated that the nominating committee was created in February with the goal of identifying persons who desire to serve on the JCA Board.

M. Bailey presented the proposed slate:

1. Westmore Smith – Education Chair
2. Yolan Williams – Public Relations Chair
3. Adaoma Patterson – Executive Secretary

V. Conville moved for acceptance of the Nominating Committee report with exception of Basil Rodney. Seconded by E. Smith-Bowes. None opposed. Carried.

H. Stewart moved to close the nomination process. Seconded by G. Gordon. None opposed. Carried.

Discussion

- In response to questions about adding others to the slate, M. Bailey indicated that if there are people interested in certain positions, they can complete the board candidate form and hand it to the Board.
- H. Stewart congratulated the entire team

- W. Smith, the new Education Chair told the membership he has been involved since in the JCA since 1994; he hopes to continue working with S. Thompson, the outgoing Chair and build on his work
- Y. Williams, the new Public Relations Chair told the membership she is looking forward to being part of the wider community
- It was noted that the bios of all candidates should have been included in the report.

12. Board Reports

Executive Vice-President – Leo Campbell

The Executive Vice-President indicated he is looking for community service, outstanding service and president's award candidates – forms available

Executive Vice-President moved for acceptance of his report; seconded by R. Walker. Carried.

Building Chair – Owen Dunbar

The Building Chair asked the membership to help identify individuals with trades specialities.

Building Chair moved for the acceptance of his report; seconded by R. Williams. Carried

Education Chair – Sylvanus Thompson

The outgoing Chair noted that with mixed feelings, this will be his last report as Building Chair; he thanked the dedicated members of education committee and staff.

Education Chair moved for acceptance of his report; seconded by V. Conville. Carried.

Fundraising Chair – Edna Smith-Bowes

The outgoing Chair thanked the board and membership.

Fundraising Chair moved for acceptance of her report; seconded by C. Fox. Carried.

Women's Chair – Charmaine Sewell

The Women's Chair thanked her committee members for their support.

The Women's Chair moved for acceptance of her report; seconded by R. Powell. Carried.

Youth Chair – Dwaine Osborne

The Youth Chair thanked membership, board and staff for support. He indicated the youth committee will be hosting an Island Jam event geared to youth 19 and over

Youth Chair moved for acceptance of his report; seconded by S. Raymond. Carried.

13. New Business

1. Presentation to Carol Fox – President thanked her for hours of sacrifice
2. Sickle Cell Association of Ontario walkathon, Saturday June 26
3. PACE Brunch, Sunday June 6
4. R. Williams suggested that every member should get a copy of the constitution
5. Proposed Trustees:
 - Dan Hamilton
 - Dwight Gordon

Motion to accept proposed trustees; seconded by R. Williams. Carried.

Other trustees: Alton Telfer, Gifford Walker, Sheila Raymond, Bruce McDonald

The President called for adjournment of the 2010 Annual General Meeting at 6:00 pm.

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Charitable Registration Number # 8415340RR0001

- W. Smith, the new Education Chair told the membership he has been involved since joining the JCA since 1994. He hopes to continue working with S. Thompson, the outgoing Chair and build on his work.
- V. Williams, the new Public Relations Chair told the membership she is looking forward to being part of the JCA.
- It was noted that the bios of all candidates should have been included in the program.

12. Board Reports

Carried
Dawn Hamilton
Dwight Gordon

Executive Vice-President – Leo Campbell

The Executive Vice-President indicated he is looking for community service, outstanding service and president's award candidates. (names available)

Executive Vice-President moved for acceptance of his report; seconded by R. Walker.

Carried.

Building Chair – Owen Dunbar

The Building Chair asked the membership to help identify individuals with trades specialties.

Building Chair moved for the acceptance of his report; seconded by R. Williams. Carried.

Education Chair – Sylvanus Thompson

The outgoing Chair noted that with mixed feelings, this will be his last report as Building Chair, he thanked the dedicated members of education committee and staff.

Education Chair moved for acceptance of his report; seconded by V. Conville. Carried.

Fundraising Chair – Edna Smith-Bowes

The outgoing Chair thanked the board and membership.

Fundraising Chair moved for acceptance of her report; seconded by C. Fox. Carried.

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The Women's Chair thanked her committee members for their support.

The Women's Chair moved for acceptance of her report; seconded by R. Powell. Carried.

Youth Chair – Dweine Osborne

The Youth Chair thanked membership, board and staff for support. He indicated the youth committee will be hosting an Island Jam event geared to youth 19 and over.

Youth Chair moved for acceptance of his report; seconded by S. Raymond. Carried.